

Pawtuxet River Authority and Watershed Council

8 Hope Furnace Road, Hope, RI 02831

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Monthly Board Meeting

PRA Office, Hope – June 3, 2013

Board Members Present: Bob Nero, Tara Digre (arrived 7:50 p.m.), Jack Donovan, Scott Goodinson, Rita Holahan, Jimmy Johnson, Jack Lancellotta, Ginny Leslie, Paul Lockett, Mike Maddalena, Brian Manning, Bridget Skuce

Board Members Absent: Michael Breault, Arthur Langlais, Steve McAllister

Associate Member Present: Ross Adrain

Guest Present: Ray Wolf

Call to Order

Mr. Nero called the meeting to order at 6:46 p.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was distributed and on a motion by Mr. Manning, seconded by Ms. Leslie, it was approved with additions of new business items by Mr. Donovan and Mr. Adrain and a change in sequence requested by Ms. Holahan.

Approval of May, 2013 Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Lancellotta, seconded by Mr. Donovan, the board approved the minutes as submitted with minor changes, including names of members who made and seconded, small grammatical changes, and the addition of info on PRA providing a cookout at the Randall Pond clean-up.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Holahan will provide her written report via e-mail within a few days; she provided an oral update on balances. We received a large reimbursement check from RIDEM for work on the Pawtuxet dam removal. Our 990 form has been submitted to the Internal Revenue Service. Most of the work on the audit has been completed; our accountant will meet with the financial and executive committees on Wednesday, June 12. The financial committee will report to the rest of the board at the July board meeting.

Ms. Holahan urged three remaining board members to submit copies of their Ethics Commission annual reports.

Mr. Nero explained that Ms. Holahan had provided detailed financial reports for the PRA annual report.

June 11 Canoe Trip by Chuck Horbert

Ms. Holahan distributed copies of a news release issued by the Rhode Island Blueways Alliance regarding a canoe trip across Rhode

Island; paddlers will go up the river from Pawtuxet Cove and plan to be at the PRA Howard Conservation Area canoe launch on Tuesday, June 11 around noon where we will have a small reception. She asked for help this weekend in sprucing up the canoe launch which has gotten somewhat overgrown. Mr. Nero said that he had been at the site during a heavy rainstorm recently and the water coming down the hill is no longer coming into our parking lot; the cleaning of the storm drains has been successful.

Update on Harris Dam

RIDEM asked our engineers to provide some additional modeling, which they have completed and submitted.

Issue at Howard Conservation Area

The PRA received several large boulders from our office landlord which were temporarily deposited at the Howard Conservation Area under Narragansett Electric power lines. Narragansett Electric has an easement over parts of the property and has concerns over the placement of the boulders. They will have to be moved.

Randall Pond Project Report

Mr. Nero wished to contact an abutting landowner before work is done; the property is probably, but not definitely, owned by St. Ann's Cemetery which is operated by the Catholic Diocese of Rhode Island. The parcel is non-contiguous to the cemetery. Mr. Nero met with Diocese cemetery officials, who are not aware of who did some site

improvements there recently. The Diocese may consider donating the parcel to the PRA and we might be able to use it for parking.

Old Kent Road Property Update

Mr. Nero reported that one of the three families has resigned from the group owning the parcel; their share was purchased by one of the other investors, Mr. Waterman. For Sale signs have been posted the property.

Canoe Trip at Randall Pond by Keith Gonsalves

Keith Gonsalves is active in the Ten Mile River Watershed Council and he is interested in how Randall Pond connects to other water bodies in the Pocasset River watershed. He attempted once but couldn't find a connection after Dyer Pond because of very thick vegetation. He wants to try again starting at Cranston Printworks; Messrs. Nero and Maddalena will assist him.

Fishing Tournament

Mr. Johnson stated that the flyer will be ready this week. Board members will be needed to solicit prizes for the event scheduled for Saturday, September 7. Unfortunately, the campground has been sold to a developer, so this may be the one and only year for this tournament.

New Business

Coventry issues: Mr. Donovan reported that the Town of Coventry

budget has the PRA as a line item but that no money has been allocated. He also reported that the Coventry Land Trust is interested in acquiring two parcels with water access on Johnson Pond.

Presentation: Mr. Adrain reported that the members of Town of West Greenwich Conservation Commission are interested in a presentation by Mr. Nero about Big River. The public meeting will be held on June 6.

Lost Villages Tour: Ray Wolf has openings on his June 15 tour.

Annual Meeting: Next month is the PRA annual meeting and the election of officers will be held. A nominating committee consisting of Ms. Skuce, Mr. Goodinson and Mr. McAllister was approved on a motion by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mr. Manning.

Scituate vacancy: Mr. Langlais has resigned from the PRA and the town is looking for a replacement.

Adjournment: On a motion by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mr. Lancellotta, the board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Leslie, Secretary